The

## Pasadena

Citizen



## La Porte Police arrest seven on 'No Refusal' Night

As part of their participation in the Texas Department of Transportation's Impaired Driving Mobilization (IDM) grant project, La Porte officers were deployed to specifically watch for impaired drivers operating on local roadways from August 19th through September 5th.

During the, explicit, Labor Day "No Refusal" night, La Porte netted a total of 7 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), while teaming up with area Deer Park PD Officers and Harris County Precinct #8 Deputies. The single-night event marked yet another successful and cooperative effort by law enforcement agencies located in southeastern Harris County to apprehend drunk drivers and keep local roadways safe.

Operations such as the DWI No Refusal event hosted by La Porte Police are becoming more and more common throughout the nation. Unfortunately, Texans remain burdened with the fact that national statistics continue to reveal our state as leading the nation in alcohol-related deaths. However, the events from this past weekend clearly reflect a continual series of positive steps toward reducing the ever-present threat posed by impaired drivers. La Porte Officer Bennie Boles, who was heavily involved in the project, expressed his pleasure in the continued success of the DWI programs, noting that every arrest may have saved a life that evening.

The "No Refusal" program involves having judges and certified nurses present at the law enforcement hosting site, where suspects arrested for DWI may have immediate search warrants issued, allowing a qualified nurse to draw their blood on the spot. Such blood samples allow for the suspects blood alcohol level to be determined. In the state of Texas, if a person's blood alcohol content in excess of 0.08, they are considered legally intoxicated. For some people, this would be the equivalent of just two alcoholic beverages.

The Labor Day weekend effort for 2012 included a total of three voluntary blood drawings, two evidentiary blood search warrants, and two immediate breath submission consents. "No Refusal" operations are intended to solidify an arrest case which rests on a question of a driver's particular blood alcohol concentration. Additionally, by using the latest audio and video technologies, suspects are now being recorded from the moment an officer spots their vehicle, to the moment they are secured in a jail cell.

Such technologies, combined with the diligence of multiple officers, judges, and nurses are just one way the public servants of southeast Harris County are doing their part to keep everyone safe. For more information on La Porte PD's role in the "No Refusal" program, or TXDOT's broader IDM grant process, contact the department at 281-842-3167.